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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 15 October 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note addressed by the Argentine Government to the United Kingdom reiterating the Argentine Republic's consistent rejection of the British presumption in referring to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of Argentine territory, as well as the Argentine Antarctic Sector, as "British Overseas Territories" in the publication *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability*, or "White Paper 2012" (see annex). The Government of the Argentine Republic also rejects the United Kingdom's presumption in including the so-called "British Antarctic Territory" as a "British Overseas Territory".

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Mateo **Estrémé**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and wishes to refer to the publication entitled *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability*, or "White Paper 2012".

The Government of the Argentine Republic reiterates its consistent rejection of the United Kingdom's presumption in referring to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas as "British Overseas Territories", given that they all constitute an integral part of Argentine territory.

Furthermore, the Government of the Argentine Republic rejects the United Kingdom's presumption in including the so-called "British Antarctic Territory" as a "British Overseas Territory".

It is recalled that United Nations General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, and the resolutions of the Special Committee on decolonization, recognize the existence of a dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and call upon both parties to resume negotiations with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the dispute as soon as possible.

In addition, the Argentine Government also rejects each and every one of the false claims contained in the white paper, whereby the United Kingdom attempts to distort the history of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands. The Charter of the United Nations, which is referred to in the white paper that prompted this note, establishes the obligation of pacific settlement of international disputes, including of course the sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom, which is acknowledged in the white paper. Until this sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands is settled in accordance with the aforementioned resolutions, any unilateral British action related in any way to these archipelagos is illegal and, moreover, incompatible with resolution 31/49, which calls upon Argentina and the United Kingdom to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the question of the Malvinas Islands remains unresolved between the two parties.

The Argentine Government once again reaffirms its imprescriptible rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as well as the Argentine Antarctic Sector, which are an integral part of its national territory.

Buenos Aires, 28 August 2012